



*Ute Valley Park by Kevin Martinez*

# **COLORADO SPRINGS**

**Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services**

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**ANNUAL REVIEW | FISCAL YEAR 2016**



## VISION

Building community and preserving our legacy  
to make Colorado Springs the finest place to live and visit.

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## MISSION

The Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services Department  
is the steward of a diverse park system that enriches the community  
through healthy, active opportunities that engage and inspire.

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## CORE VALUES - "EPPIC"

### EXCELLENCE

Consistently strives to deliver superior  
service and results with integrity;  
maximizes potential through  
continuous improvement;  
sets, achieves, and maintains  
a high level of performance.

### PASSION

Motivated to provide remarkable  
service and dedication to  
the community and the Department.

### PROFESSIONALISM

Highly skilled and adaptable subject  
matter experts that embrace lifelong  
learning and improvement.

### INNOVATION

Pursues creative ways to better deliver  
services both within the Department  
and with external partners,  
while anticipating future needs.

### COLLABORATION

Inspires others to succeed and develop;  
thinks and acts beyond the scope of  
individual responsibilities;  
puts department goals in front  
of division or individual objectives;  
recognizes outstanding performance  
and is accountable to each other.

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Another year has gone by and we have made great strides to meet the needs of our community and fulfill the vision established by our Park System Master Plan. This couldn't have happened without our great private partnerships, outstanding programs and award winning projects!

I continue to be amazed by what we accomplish for our community when we all work together! Our year started off with a challenging and fruitful opportunity in conservation. Many of us had differing views as to what constituted success and through those differences a great dialogue occurred. We are proud of what we accomplished in an effort to preserve a total of 676 acres of parkland. We added 208 acres to North Cheyenne Cañon Park around the very popular Mount Muscoco Trail, acquired property to ensure that the Manitou Incline is completely owned by public entities, secured significant trail easements for connections to our Chamberlain Trail and Cheyenne Mountain Heritage Trail, and acquired nearly nine acres adjacent to Bear Creek Regional Park. The Strawberry Hill portion traded with the Broadmoor has a permanent conservation easement (held by another great partner, Palmer Land Trust) and will continue to allow for public access through new trails planned for construction in 2017.

We celebrated with another significant partner, the Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center, which welcomed over a million visitors this year! We received an incredible gift of \$512,958 from the Garden of the Gods Foundation, whose partnership helps us annually maintain and improve the Garden of the Gods Park.

We share amazing partnerships with so many private and not for profit organizations throughout our community. Collaborative funding allowed us to open our first state of the art pickleball facility in Monument Valley Park, just in time for the Great Plains Regional Tournament hosted by the tremendous advocates of the Pikes Peak Pickleball Association. Additionally, we continue to work with the U.S. Forest Service, Colorado Springs Utilities, U.S. Army and the Cog Railway on the design and construction documents for the new Summit Complex at the top of Pikes Peak. The facility will welcome visitors to Pikes Peak - America's Mountain, where the tollgate alone received an all-time high attendance of over 480,000 visitors in 2016.

Further, our Therapeutic Recreation Program continues to be a leader nationally as they were selected to be part of the National Inclusion Project. Our program does amazing work for the community by providing outdoor adventure opportunities, exercise through dance and numerous exciting summer programs. It remains highly regarded and supported by program participants and their families. This was a special year for the team as the Therapeutic Recreation Society of Colorado recognized one of our own for her outstanding contributions to her work and professional field. Congratulations to Diane Ridderhoff for being named Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist of the Year!

This year was also full of exciting projects as we follow through with your emphasis in the Parks System Master Plan on taking care of what we have. Great progress was made in the maintenance and stewardship of our park system using funds available through the passage of the 2C initiative and 2D TABOR retention (a special thank you to our voters for supporting these initiatives), and the Trails, Open Space and Parks (TOPS) tax program. Projects included 2D trails construction which significantly improved sections our older urban trails; 2C roadwork which allowed for the complete repaving of roads in Garden of the Gods, North Cheyenne Cañon and Palmer Park; and, TOPS funds that facilitated continued work on John Venezia Community Park, property acquisitions of key connections to our Legacy Loop and the completion of phase two of the Manitou Incline - just to name a few!

We are proud of the work we accomplished this year and we are thankful for the recognition from the State Lottery for a Starburst Award for the Creekside Project at America the Beautiful Park, and the American Planning Association of Colorado for their recognition of our outstanding Park System Master Plan.

It's been a wonderful year to reflect on, but I would be remiss if I did not wrap up without saying how appreciative we are for the incredible amount of volunteers and partners that support the mission of our department. Without your time, talents, and tremendous support we could NEVER do the amazing work we see achieved each year! On behalf of my entire team, THANK YOU for giving to your community in such a special way!

I hope you enjoy the reflection in this report as much as I have, and as you review the next several pages please know how much each of you has played an important part in our outstanding Park System.

As we embark on the upcoming year we look forward to celebrating the release of our Economic Benefit Study, the 20th Anniversary of TOPS and the grand opening of our first new community park in over ten years - John Venezia Community Park!

Sincerely,

Karen Palus  
Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services  
City of Colorado Springs

## THE DEPARTMENT

### CULTURAL SERVICES

- Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum
- Helen Hunt Falls Visitor and Nature Center
- Garden of the Gods Interpretive Programming
- Rock Ledge Ranch Historic Site
- Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center

### ENTERPRISE OPERATIONS

- Evergreen Cemetery
- Fairview Cemetery
- Patty Jewett Golf Course
- Valley Hi Golf Course
- Pikes Peak – America's Mountain

### PARK OPERATIONS & DEVELOPMENT

- Forestry
- Park Operations and Development
- Regional Parks, Trails and Open Spaces
- Special Improvement Maintenance Districts
- Trails, Open Space and Parks Tax

### RECREATION & ADMINISTRATION

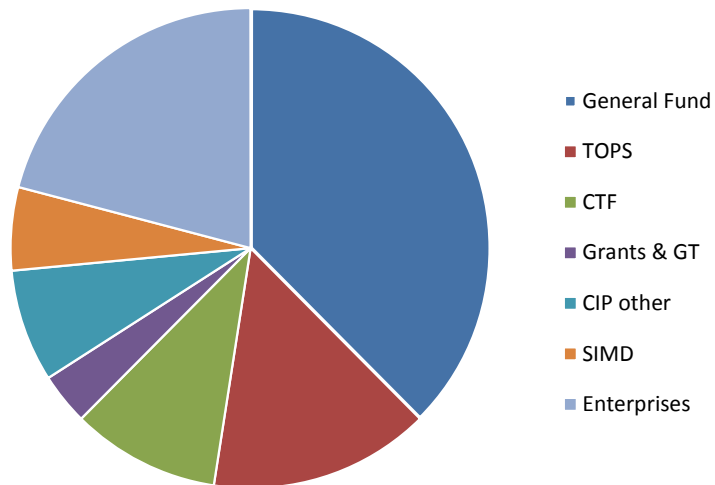
- Administration
- City Auditorium
- Community Centers
- Sertich Ice Center
- Special Events
- Spirit of the Springs
- Therapeutic Recreation Program
- Volunteers
- Youth and Adult Sports

## 2016 FUNDING

### TOTAL PRCS DEPARTMENT FUNDING SOURCES

All figures from 2016 final budget

<b>General Fund Total</b>	<b>15,958,759</b>
TOPS <i>Trails, Open Space and Parks Tax</i>	6,329,722
CTF <i>Conservation Trust Fund</i>	4,248,480
CIP <i>Other Capital Improvement Program</i>	3,224,000
SIMD <i>Special Improvement Maintenance Districts</i>	2,373,452
Grants and Gift Trust	1,471,210
<b>Non-General Fund Total</b>	<b>17,646,864</b>
<b>Enterprises</b>	<b>8,886,974</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,492,597</b>



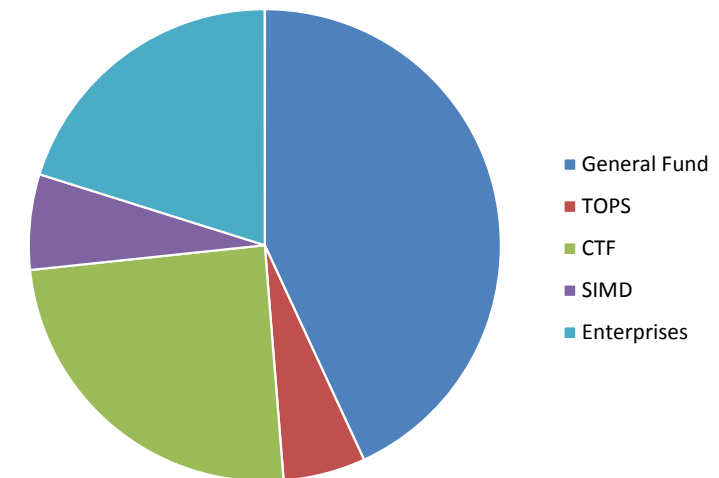
### TOTAL DEPARTMENT BUDGET BY DIVISION

Cultural Services	<b>2,515,326</b>
Development/Capital Improvement Projects	<b>7,934,137</b>
Forestry	<b>1,771,043</b>
Parks Operations and Development	<b>15,140,039</b>
Recreation and Administration	<b>6,245,078</b>
Enterprises	<b>8,886,974</b>
<i>Cemeteries</i>	<i>1,404,605</i>
<i>Golf</i>	<i>3,219,303</i>
<i>Pikes Peak - America's Mountain</i>	<i>4,263,066</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>42,492,597</b>

## 2016 FUNDING

### TOTAL POSITIONS BY FUND

	Cultural Services	Parks Operations and Development	Forestry	Recreation and Administration	Enterprises	TOTALS
General Fund	12	19.5	8	33.25		72.75
TOPS		8.5	.5	.5		9.5
CTF		40	1.5			41.5
SIMD		11				11
Enterprises					34	34
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33.75</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>168.75</b>



In 2016 the PRCS Department generated \$3,154,053 in revenue, equaling 20% of its general fund budget.

### UNIQUE FUNDS OVERSEEN BY THE DEPARTMENT

#### CONSERVATION TRUST FUND

Local governments receive 40% of the total revenue generated by the State Lottery, with our City share distributed based on population.

These funds are received and expended from the Conservation Trust Fund (CTF).  
2016 Revenue Total \$4,070,800

#### ENTERPRISES

Enterprises enable the city to offer numerous cost-effective services since they are predominantly supported by user fees and do not receive support from the general fund.

Enterprises include  
*Patty Jewett and Valley Hi Golf Courses, Evergreen and Fairview Cemeteries, and Pikes Peak - America's Mountain.*  
2016 Revenue Total \$8,628,298

#### SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT MAINTENANCE DISTRICTS

Assessments against real properties within established districts provide for maintenance of specific improvements in these areas.

SIMD areas include *Norwood, Old Colorado City, Platte Avenue, Colorado Avenue Gateway, Woodstone, Stetson Hills and Briargate.*

#### TRAILS, OPEN SPACE AND PARK (TOPS)

TOPS revenue is generated from a 0.1% sales and use tax adopted by voters in April 1997 and set to expire in 2025.

The majority of funds are designated for open space purchases and associated maintenance; development and maintenance of trails; and development of new parks.  
2016 Revenue Total \$8,008,000

## A YEAR IN NUMBERS



**RECORD ATTENDANCE**  
*Pikes Peak - America's Mountain*  
16% increase



**VISITOR PARTICIPATIONS**  
*Garden of the Gods Programs*  
15% increase



**PARTICIPANTS & SPECTATORS**  
*601 permits issued for Special Events*  
9% permit increase



**GOLF**  
*9-Hole Rounds Played*  
4% increase at Patty Jewett  
9% increase at Valley Hi



**ANNUAL OPERATING HOURS**  
*at the Historic City Auditorium*  
56 new events



**GIFT SUPPORTING**  
*Colorado Springs Pioneers Museum*  
*Story of Us project*



**RECORD ATTENDANCE**  
*Rock Ledge Ranch*  
30% increase



**VISITORS**  
*North Cheyenne Cañon*  
*Visitor and Nature Centers*



**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES SERVED**  
*Therapeutic Recreation Program*  
3,877 volunteer hours



**PARTICIPANTS**  
*at the Deerfield Hills, Hillside and*  
*Meadows Park Community Centers*



**YOUTH AND ADULT SPORTS**  
*Participant turnstile count*



**ATTENDANCE**  
*Sertich Ice Center*



**WATER FOOTPRINT REDUCTIONS**  
*in Parks*



**RECORD ATTENDANCE**  
*North Slope Recreation Area*  
6% increase



**TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS**  
*by 3,806 Volunteers*



**ACRES TREATED**  
*Tussock Moth Infestation*

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### CHEYENNE MEADOWS PLAYGROUND

In just 3 days 275 volunteers dedicated 2,200 volunteer hours to revitalize Cheyenne Meadows Park. Kids provided input on what play elements to incorporate, then it was all hands on deck to install the playground, complete dog park improvements, build horseshoe pits, put in baseball field upgrades, and finish additional park infrastructure projects. This new playground was made possible through a \$5 million partnership between The CarMax Foundation and KaBOOM! that will build 33 playgrounds across the U.S. by the end of 2018.

### DEERFIELD HILLS COMMUNITY CENTER EXPANSION

The city's first and oldest community center serves 72,000 citizens annually in southeast Colorado Springs. After 45 years of providing a wide array of program opportunities and community services, this Community Center received a \$728,508 face-lift, of which \$500,000 was a grant from HUD under the Community Development Block Grant program. Growing to just under 5,000 square feet, Deerfield Hills now has a new preschool room, community room, teen room, restrooms, and reception area, plus a new exterior look, roof, and landscaping.

### LAND EXCHANGE

Through this exchange, the City gained 371 acres of property and 115 acres of new public trail easements that include an expanded North Cheyenne Cañon Park, secured property for the Manitou Incline, expanded Bear Creek Regional Park, and secured easements for the Chamberlain Trail, Barr Trail, South Cañon Trail, and trails to Hully Gully.

The land exchange from the City to The Broadmoor includes 180+ acres of the area called Strawberry Hill, as well as .55 acres adjacent to the Cog railway. A conservation easement has been placed with the Palmer Land Trust upon the 180+ acres of Strawberry Hill that was transferred to The Broadmoor; the public will continue to have access to all but 8.5 acres of the Strawberry Hill property to ensure conservation and recreation values are protected and public access is provided to the property in perpetuity. The conservation easement defines only an 8.5 acre private building envelope within the 180+ acre parcel to develop a picnicking area, horse stables and trail.

### MANITOU INCLINE PHASE II COMPLETED

The Incline project had four major goals: improved safety, enhanced user experience, elevate long-term sustainability of the trail, and increased accessibility. In just three months Phase 2 construction was completed between Tie 1 and Tie 1525. Slopes within this section of work range from 23% to 63%. This phase included repair and replacement of damaged retaining walls, cleanup of rebar and loose debris, construction of additional drainage structures, and stabilization of existing ties and surrounding slopes. In 2016, the City also secured a \$2 million grant for Phase III corridor reconstruction projects.

### NANCY LEWIS PARK IMPROVEMENTS

In 1996, the City and Pikes Peak Hospice & Palliative Care joined together in a unique collaborative effort to create the city's only arboretum named in honor of Nancy Lewis. Twenty years later, both organizations united to replace the missing trees, benches and amenity plaques, while creating a place for reflection, peace and meditation. Additionally, renovations to the park included replacing the playground, trash cans, tables, irrigation and adding a six piece fitness zone.

### ACACIA PARK OUTDOOR ICE RINK

Open 55 days  
12,280 Visitors

### CITY AUDITORIUM RESTROOM RENOVATION

Completed in 6 months  
\$290,000 Project

### COLORADO HEALTH FOUNDATION

Struttin' in Stratton Grant  
\$33,000

### COLORADO SPRINGS SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL

Travels to Greece and the  
1<sup>st</sup> US citizen participates  
in torch relay on ancient grounds

### EVERGREEN AND FAIRVIEW CEMETERIES

630 interments

### INAUGURAL GREAT OUTDOORS DAY

Hosted June 4, 2016  
3,000 People Attended

### SOUTH SLOPE RECREATION AREA

Open 20 days  
519 Permits Issued

### THERAPEUTIC RECREATION PROGRAM

El Pomar Regional Merit Grant  
\$20,000

### TICKET TO SUCCESS

Hosts a unique leadership program for local 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students who meet 4 times each spring to gain awareness of our City government

## CAPITAL PROJECTS

The department completed a number of projects to repair, expand and maintain our parkland properties.

### DEVELOPMENT & PLANNING

- Bluestem Prairie Open Space Management Plan Completed
- Catalyst Campus Land Trade
- Department Donation Policy Approved
- Foothills Trail Planning
- Forest Restoration Projects:
  - Stratton Open Space and Stratton Forest
  - Bear Creek Canyon
  - University Park
- Garden of the Gods Signage Proposal Adopted
- Ivywild Neighborhood Park Master Plan Updated
- Legacy Loop Master Planning Process Completed
- North Cheyenne Cañon, Incline and Bear Creek Land Exchange
- Parks System Master Plan – Action Plans Completed
- Rock Ledge Ranch Greenhouse Planning
- Sinton Pond Management Plan Completed
- Stratton Open Space Management Plan Completed
- University Park Open Space Management Plan Completed


### PARKS & OPEN SPACE


- Blodgett Peak Open Space Kiosk Installation
- Cheyenne Canyon Road and Drainage Improvements
- Coordinated park street paving in:
  - Palmer Park
  - Garden of the Gods
  - North Cheyenne Cañon
- Cottonwood Creek Recreation Center Pool Replastered
- First Tee Short Course at Valley Hi Golf Course Opened
- Harlan Wolfe Park Improvements
- Mary Kyer Park Groundwater Improvements
- Nancy Lewis Park Renovations
- Prairie Dog O'Byrne Park Drainage Improvements
- Rampart Park Disc Golf Course Opened
- Silver Cascade Trail Repaired and Improved
- Ute Valley Park Trailhead and Access Road Completed
- Watkins Property Acquired

### PLAYGROUND RENOVATION & REPAIR

- America the Beautiful Playground Resurfacing
- New Playground at Cheyenne Meadows Park
- New Playground at Nancy Lewis Park

## FAST FACTS

 In 2016, 10 park technicians maintained 1,000 acres of neighborhood parks; averaging 96 total acres, 56 turf acres, and 14 park sites per technician.

 Anytime snow falls, Urban Parks staff is responsible for clearing 182 park and school sites.

### URBAN TRAILS

- Cottonwood Trail Construction at Union
- Cottonwood Creek Trail Construction at Vincent
- Pikes Peak Greenway Trail Renovations
- Sand Creek Trail Construction from Las Vegas to Hancock
- Skyline Trail Renovations

### FACILITIES

- Cartegraph Facilities Module Rollout
- City Auditorium Restrooms Renovated
- Hillside Community Center Roof Repaired and Solar Panels Installed
- Pickleball courts at Monument Valley Park Opened
- Sertich Ice Center ADA Improvements Completed

## FEMA DESIGNATED PROJECTS

Significant flood damage resulted in FEMA designated projects at these sites. Many of the properties incurred significant damage throughout.

### URBAN TRAILS

- El Pomar Youth Sports Complex Playground and Field Repairs
- High Drive Repairs
- Midland Trail Repairs
- Pikes Peak Greenway Trail Repairs
- Red Rock Canyon Open Space
- Sinton Trail Repairs
- Sondermann Park Repairs
- South Cañon Trail Repairs in North Cheyenne Cañon

## GREEN THUMB HORTICULTURE AND EDUCATION CENTER

*The City's Greenhouse raised 9,900 annuals for programming and started 600 native plant cuttings for the Garden of the Gods Retention Pond Project.*

### 2C ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

- Palmer Park
- North Cheyenne Cañon
- Garden of the Gods
- Totaling \$2,445,000**

### 2D TRAIL IMPROVEMENTS

- \*Homestead Trail
- Pikes Peak Greenway
- Palmer Mesa Trail
- Rock Island Trail
- Sand Creek Trail
- \*Shooks Run Trail
- \*Sinton Trail
- Skyline Trail
- Totaling \$2,153,000**
- \*Fully completed in 2017**

**5.45 ACRES CONVERTED**  
from low-use bluegrass to native grass

### 20 ROGUE TRAILS RESTORED

**1,420 UTILITY LOCATES REQUESTED**  
for projects adjacent to park property

**108 LOADS REMOVED**  
of washed out sand from Palmer Park repurposed at Red Rock Canyon

**266 LOADS DELIVERED**  
of park material to regional and neighborhood parks

**350 HAZARDOUS TREES REMOVED**  
from City medians between Union Blvd. & Circle Dr.

**1,015 YARDS FIBAR INSTALLED**

**1,596 CUBIC YARDS OF ORGANIC WASTE RECYCLED**  
\$17,290 waste disposal savings



## NOTEWORTHY IMPACTS FROM OUR PARTNERS

The department annually completes a number of projects, programs, activities, and events with the help of our dedicated friends groups and partners. We value their efforts and acknowledge that their contributions play a huge role in our success.

### **ANONYMOUS DONOR**

\$338,525 donated to assist with park projects

### **CATAMOUNT INSTITUTE**

Hosted National Geographic BioBlitz event at Sondermann Park

### **COLORADO SPRINGS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU**

Supported staffing of the Acacia Park Visitor Hub, which served 8,288 visitors

### **COLORADO SPRINGS PIONEERS MUSEUM BOARD**

Received \$300,000 gift to support the Story of Us project

### **COLORADO SPRINGS PIONEERS MUSEUM FOUNDATION**

Submitted NEH grant to support over \$700,000 in capital improvements to the Museum's collection storage facility

### **CORRAL BLUFFS ALLIANCE**

Corral Bluffs received Colorado Natural Areas Designation

### **DOWNTOWN PARTNERSHIP OF COLORADO SPRINGS**

Coordinated Acacia Park Ice Rink sponsorship and investment valued at \$37,500

### **EVERGREEN CEMETERY BENEVOLENT SOCIETY**

Coordinated services for 20-year-old Navy Ensign John Charles England, a Purple Heart recipient and Pearl Harbor hero

### **FIRST TEE OF PIKES PEAK**

Provided \$136,511 for the short course at Valley Hi Golf Course

### **FRIENDS OF CHEYENNE CAÑON**

Provided \$20,000 for Silver Cascade Trail repairs

### **FRIENDS OF GARDEN OF THE GODS**

Funded \$32,257 in support of restoration projects, Title 1 school transportation for field trips and park safety staff

### **FRIENDS OF MONUMENT VALLEY PARK**

Awarded a \$170,570 State Historic Fund Grant for Columbia Street Entrance repairs

### **FRIENDS OF PEREGRINE PARKS & OPEN SPACES**

Coordinated 12 stewardship project work days

### **FRIENDS OF THE PEAK**

Awarded a Ring the Peak planning grant from Great Outdoors Colorado

### **FRIENDS OF RED ROCK CANYON**

Began Board-led work nights resulting in 5 work days and nearly 100 volunteer hours

### **FRIENDS OF UTE VALLEY PARK**

Completed the Southwest Ridge Trail

### **GARDEN OF THE GODS FOUNDATION**

Granted \$512,958 for park improvements

### **GARDEN OF THE GODS TRADING POST**

Donated \$20,835 to the park

### **GREENWAY FUND**

Coordinated a rain barrel sale in support of Legacy Loop fundraising efforts

### **GUARDIANS OF PALMER PARK**

Assisted with significant improvements to Edna Mae, Palmer Point and Brenner Trails

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION ALLIANCE**

Awarded \$48,724 State Historic Fund Grant for Harlan Wolfe Park historic house foundation and roofing repairs

### **INCLINE FRIENDS**

Pledged \$40,000 for work on the Northern Trail

### **KEEP COLORADO SPRINGS BEAUTIFUL**

Coordinated 341 clean-ups and filled over 8,827 bags of trash collected on city parkland

### **LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION**

Assisted with 14 special events at Rock Ledge Ranch

### **MEDICINE WHEEL TRAIL ADVOCATES**

Began the Lake Moraine- Missing Link Trail on the South Slope

### **NATIONAL INCLUSION PROJECT**

Awarded Therapeutic Recreation Program a \$10,000 grant to focus on advocacy, education, inclusion, and training.

### **OLD COLORADO CITY FOUNDATION**

Gifted \$5,000 for Bancroft Park Improvements

### **PIKES PEAK PICKLEBALL ASSOCIATION**

Contributed \$216,936 to a new pickleball facility at Monument Valley Park

### **ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD INSTITUTE**

Completed 15<sup>th</sup> year of stewardship work in Garden of the Gods Park and coordinated 707 volunteers over the course of 47 workdays for a total work value of \$85,081.05

### **THERAPEUTIC RECREATION COMMUNITY PARTNERS**

Gifted \$8,932 to the Therapeutic Recreation Program

### **TRAILS AND OPEN SPACE COALITION**

Awarded a Ring the Peak planning grant from Great Outdoors Colorado

### **WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CENTER**

Averaged 11,000 visitors each month

### **YMCA OF THE PIKES PEAK REGION**

Served 130,544 participants in the City recreation centers and outdoor pools

## RECOGNITION

**2016 EXPERT'S CHOICE**  
Pikes Peak - America's Mountain  
*by USA Today*

**#2 PATRIOTIC ATTRACTION**  
Pikes Peak - America's Mountain  
*by USA Today*

**#2 FREE ATTRACTION**  
Garden of the Gods  
*by USA Today Readers Choice*

**CAGGY AWARD**  
Patty Jewett Golf Course  
*by Colorado Avid Golfer*

**COLORADO WATERUSE  
CUSTOMER OF THE YEAR**  
Patty Jewett Golf Course  
*by Colorado Springs Utilities*

**LAND MANAGER  
OF THE YEAR**  
Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services  
*by Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado*

**OUTSTANDING  
PLANNING PROJECT**  
Parks System Master Plan  
*by American Planning Association*

**STARBURST AWARD**  
Environmental Playground  
at America the Beautiful Park  
*by Colorado Lottery*

**CERTIFICATE  
OF EXCELLENCE**  
Garden of the Gods  
Helen Hunt Falls  
North Cheyenne Cañon  
Pikes Peak - America's Mountain  
Red Rock Canyon Open Space  
Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center  
*by TripAdvisor*

**QUALITY OF LIFE  
#5 BEST PLACES TO LIVE**  
Colorado Springs  
*by US News & World Report*

**#6 BEST WEEKEND GETAWAY**  
Colorado Springs  
*by US News & World Report*

**#9 BEST IN THE MOUNTAINS CITY**  
Colorado Springs  
*by Money Magazine*

**#9 BEST CITY FOR FAMILIES**  
Colorado Springs  
*by Wallet Hub*

**OUTSTANDING  
STAFF & VOLUNTEERS  
2016 CERTIFIED THERAPEUTIC  
RECREATION SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR**  
Diane Ridderhoff  
*by Therapeutic Recreation Society of Colorado*

**COLUMBINE AWARD  
FOR PARK CHAMPION**  
Jackie Hilaire  
*by Colorado Parks and Recreation Association*

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD  
FOR THE COLORADO SPRINGS  
SPORTS HALL OF FAME**  
Jack Glavan  
*by Colorado Springs Sports Corporation*

**BEST OF THE INDEPENDENT  
TOURIST ATTRACTION**  
Garden of the Gods

**EASY HIKING TRAIL**  
Red Rock Canyon

**DIFFICULT HIKING TRAIL**  
Manitou Incline

*Garden of the Gods by Bijan Pirnia*

**BEST OF THE SPRINGS  
GOLF COURSE**  
Patty Jewett (*Gold*)

**HIKE WITH LITTLE ONES**  
Garden of the Gods (*Gold*)  
Palmer Park (*Bronze*)

**ICE RINK**  
Sertich Ice Center (*Silver*)

**IMPRESSIVE OUTING**  
Garden of the Gods (*Gold*)  
Pikes Peak - America's Mountain (*Bronze*)

**LUNCHTIME/AFTER WORK/BIKE/HIKE**  
Garden of the Gods (*Gold*)  
Palmer Park (*Bronze*)

**MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAIL**  
Palmer Park-Palmer Trail Loop (*Silver*)  
Section 16 (*Bronze*)

**PLACE TO SKATEBOARD**  
Memorial Park (*Gold*)  
Goose Gossage (*Silver*)

**PLACES TO PROPOSE**  
Garden of the Gods (*Gold*)  
Pikes Peak - America's Mountain (*Bronze*)

**TRAIL**  
Manitou Incline (*Gold*)  
Red Rock Canyon (*Silver*)

**TRAIL FOR BEGINNERS**  
Garden of the Gods (*Gold*)  
Red Rock Canyon (*Bronze*)

**URBAN TRAIL**  
Monument Valley Park (*Gold*)  
Ute Valley Park (*Bronze*)

## MORE TO COME

**20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
Trails Open Space and Parks (TOPS)

**25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
Starsmore Visitor and Nature Center

**40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
Tree City USA

**COLORADO SPARKLER  
TOURNAMENT**  
National Youth Girls Fast Pitch Tournament  
June 26-July 2, 2017

**ECONOMIC BENEFITS STUDY**  
Funding through CVB,  
Downtown Partnership and Lyda Hill  
Release January 12, 2017

**GARDEN OF THE GODS  
IMPROVEMENTS**  
Honey Ant Study  
Signage  
Entrance Gates  
Transportation Study  
Messaging and Information System

**GREAT OUTDOORS COLORADO**  
Inspire Grant Planning and Implementation

**INAUGURAL  
STATE OF THE OUTDOORS**  
March 20, 2017

**OUT OF SCHOOL TIME**  
Inaugural Toolbox Summit  
April 8, 2017

**LEGACY LOOP**  
Phase 1 Construction Underway  
Trail Head & Plaza  
Rock Island Trail  
Unith Street Underpass  
Mesa Creek Crossing

**MANITOU INCLINE**  
Phase III

**MASTER PLANS**  
Larry Ochs Sports Complex  
North Cheyenne Cañon

**UTE VALLEY PARK**  
Completion of the Eastern Trail Loop

**VENEZIA PARK GRAND OPENING**  
June 2017

## PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURAL SERVICES ADVISORY BOARD

Mina Liebert, Chair  
Gary Feffer, Vice Chair  
Carol Beckman  
Charles Castle  
Gary Bostrom  
Hank Scarangella  
Jason Rupinski  
Ron Ilgen  
Scot Hume  
Charlie Dunn, Alternate

## TOPS WORKING COMMITTEE

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*Monument Valley Park by Loran Mundy*





parks • recreation • cultural services

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